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TOWN OF ACTON
Health Department
472 Main Street
Acton, Massachusetts, 01720
Telephone (978) 264-9634
Fax (978) 264-9630

February 27, 2014

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Sheryl Ball, Health Inspector 

RE: Health Department – New Fee Classification for Farmer's Market

Attached please find a letter from the Acton Boxborough Farmers Market seeking a reclassification of fees for the Farmers Market for Board of Selectmen consideration/approval as follows:

- One time permit fee - \$25.00
- Seasonal Permit - \$50.00

Currently the Health Department fees are listed as Temporary Food Permits with a cost of \$45 for one time and \$70 for the season. The Health Department recommends that we keep these fees for all other temporary events excluding the Farmer's Market. The Health Department reviewed this new classification of fees and recommends the Farmers Market fees based on the following:

- Cost analysis of Health Department fees for this event, including time spent by the Health Department for review, permitting and inspection of the many applicants on any given Sunday.
- Comparative Costs from surrounding towns.
- New vendors would like opportunity to work on a trial basis before signing up for the entire season.

At their regularly scheduled meeting, dated February 24, 2014, the Acton Board of Health voted to recommend the above referenced new classification of fees for the Acton Boxborough Farmers Market.



TOWN OF ACTON
Health Department
472 Main Street
Acton, Massachusetts, 01720
Telephone (978) 929-6632
Fax (978) 929-6340

February 19, 2014

TO: Board of Health

FROM: Sheryl Ball, Health Department

RE: Farmer's Market – New classification of fees

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The Acton Boxborough Farmer's Market has submitted a request to the Board of Health for approval for new fees for the Farmer's Market. The Health Department has reviewed this request and recommends the following fees:

One Time permit	\$25.00
Seasonal Permit	\$50.00

This fee recommendation is based on the actual time the Health Department spends in both issuing these permits and for inspections. Typically on most weekends the Farmer's Market has approximately 5-6 vendors per weekend that are being permitted by the Health Department.

The Board of Selectmen will also need to approve this request if the Board of Health wishes to recommend the Acton Boxborough Farmer's Market fee classification.

Acton Boxborough Farmers Market
155 Prospect Street
Acton, MA 01720
978-877-1657
Coordinator@ABFarmersMarket.org
February 19, 2014

Dear Acton Board of Health:

As the farmers market enters its sixth year, we have realized a growing financial problem for our newer, small, startup vendors, and their ability to pay for the one day temporary food permit fee. New vendors often want to try the Acton Boxborough Farmers Market (ABFM) on a trial basis before signing for a whole season; and we honestly like to test them out as well! Unfortunately, the \$20 ABFM fee, and the \$45 temporary food permit fee makes this difficult for small specialty vendors. Most of them are new, startup companies who are simply trying to establish a customer base. They don't make enough money to cover the investment needed.

We are requesting the opportunity to meet with the Board of Health to discuss a decrease in the temporary food permit fee for the farmers market. On average, we only get 1-3 vendors a year who would like to pay for the one day fee.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jennifer Campbell

Coordinator, Acton Boxborough Farmers Market

Comparison of other surrounding towns and how they charge farmers markets

Town	Fee
Carlisle	\$10 season
Harvard	\$25 season
Groton	\$25 season
Chelmsford	\$25 season
Ashland	\$35 season
Lexington	\$50 season
Wayland	\$50 season
Maynard	\$50 season
Natick	\$50 season
Belmont	\$50 season